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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,331	12/12/2001	Michael T. Milbocker	PRAXIS-5	9980
21127 7590 04/03/2009 RISSMAN JOBSE HENDRICKS & OLIVERIO, LLP 100 Cambridge Street			EXAMINER	
			FUBARA, BLESSING M	
Suite 2101 BOSTON, MA 02114			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1618	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			04/03/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)		
	10/020,331	MILBOCKER, MICHAEL T.		
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit		
	BLESSING M. FUBARA	1618		
The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	pears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPL' WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING D/ - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.1: after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period v - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tin will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from a cause the application to become ABANDONE	N. nely filed the mailing date of this communication. D (35 U.S.C. § 133).		
Status				
Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. Since this application is in condition for allower closed in accordance with the practice under Example 2 and 2 december 2 decemb	action is non-final. nce except for formal matters, pro			
Disposition of Claims				
4) ☐ Claim(s) 1,7-11 and 49-53 is/are pending in the 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdraw 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,7-11 and 49-53 is/are rejected. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/o	vn from consideration.			
Application Papers				
9) The specification is objected to by the Examine 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) according a policinary not request that any objection to the Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Ex	epted or b) objected to by the liden or b) objected to by the liden of the liden of the liden of by the liden of the drawing (s) is object to be set of the drawing (s) is object to be set of the drawing (s) is object to be set of the liden	e 37 CFR 1.85(a). ected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119				
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 				
Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	4)			
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date		atent Application (PTO-152)		

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DETAILED ACTION

The examiner acknowledges receipt of request for extension of time, amendment and remarks filed 12/10/08. Claims 1, 9-11, 51 and 52 are amended. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12-14, 17-30, 40-42 and 44-48 are canceled. New claim 53 is added. Claims 1, 7-11 and 49-53 are pending.

Response to Arguments

1. Previous rejections that are not reiterated herein are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
 The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
- 3. Claims 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
- 4. Claim 49 depends on canceled claim 40 and claim 50 depends on canceled claim 17. These claims are of indeterminate scope since the claims upon which they depend are canceled. Therefore, no art rejections are applied to claims 49 and 50.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- 6. Claims 1, 7-11, 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Wood (US 4,241,537).
- 7. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 (for trifunctional polyol), 6 (polyisocyanate is selected from toluene diisocyante and isophorone diisocyanate), and claim 10. Claim 1 is also amended to recite molecular weight of the alkylene oxide polymers.

 Part of the limitation of claim 9 is recaptured in new claim 53. Canceled claims 2, 6 and 10 were all previously rejected. Claim 9 was also previously rejected. The rejection is modified to capture the amendment to the claims.
- 8. Wood discloses a composition comprising isocyanate terminated polyurethane prepolymer (abstract; column 2, lines 61-65) that comprises at least three functional groups (column 5, lines 37-40); the mixture forms a gel (column 5, lines 10 and 11); the polymer contains ethylene oxide (EO) units and propylene oxide (PO) units with specific requirement that the PO unit be present at less than 50% (column 6, lines 37-39); preferably the hydrophobic PO is at about 30% and the EO is greater that about 70% preferably (column 7, lines 27, 28, 35-37); the isocyanates are present as toluene-2,4-diisocyanate and toluene-2,6-diisocyanate at a ratio of 80:20 (column 8, lines 15, 16; column 10, lines 57 and 58); isophorone diisocyanate is also present or employed (column 8, line 56); the polymer formed between PO and EO in the

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PO, the number of functionalities of at least 3 as stated above, the amount of water which is present at 50-95% (column 3, lines 39-41) meet the limitations of claims 1 and 51. Toluene-2,6diisocyanate meets claims 7, 11; isophorone diisocyanate meets claims 8, 10 and 11; isocyanates present as toluene-2,4-diisocyanate and toluene-2,6-diisocyanate at a ratio of 80:20 as described above meet claim 9. The concentration of the isocyanate is low (column 6, lines 6-14) resulting in minimal free isocyanate. Wood contemplates copolymerizing EO with PO in the presence of polyols such as trimethylolpropane (column 7, lines 55-58). The silence of Wood on the presence of free isocyanate in the composition indicates composition that is free of the NCO or minimal amount present since the staring amount is low at 2 meg/g and claim 53 is thus met. Wood does not add catalyst to the composition so that the presence of low molecular weight polyisocyanate meets claim 52 since the functionality is at least 3. Wood teaches that the number average molecular weight of the pre-polymer is at least 3000 (column 5, lines 51-53), which intersects points within the recited range meeting the molecular weight requirement. Therefore, Wood anticipates the claims. In the alternate, the silence of Wood on the presence of free isocyanate in the composition indicates the composition is free of NCO or is present in minimal amounts. Therefore, taking the general teaching of the reference, it would be prima facie obvious that the amount of the isocyanate remaining is very minimal.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 12/10/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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10. Applicant argues that Wood does not teach that the molecular weight of the diol be between 800 and 5,000. The examiner disagrees because Wood teaches the molecular weight of the pre-polymer to be at 3000 meeting a point within the recited range of between 800 and 5000.

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- 11. Applicant also argues that Wood is directed to plant grow and that the claimed composition would render the material of Wood inoperable. The examiner disagrees because Wood's composition containing the polymer, the polyisocyanate and the isocyanate ratios, the %amount of the PO is the same as the claimed composition. Use of the composition as a soil for plants/seeds is an intended use. The composition of Wood also forms gel in situ (see column 5, lines 8-10 and same compositions must be capable of the same intended use.
- 12. Applicant further argues that the linkage in Wood is an ether linkage and not the urethane linkage claimed. The examiner disagrees. The goal of Wood is in situ formation of polyurethane hydrogel (see the title; column 2, lines 61-65). Furthermore the structure in column 6, lines 45-60 contains urethane linkages and not ether linkages.

No claim is allowed.

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this

final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to BLESSING M. FUBARA whose telephone number is (571)272-

0594. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Monday to Thursday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Michael G. Hartley can be reached on (571) 272-0616. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

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/Michael G. Hartley/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1618

/Blessing M. Fubara/

Examiner, Art Unit 1618